UNITED
NATIONS

DP

Executive Board of
the United Nations
Development Programme
and of the United Nations
Population Fund

Distr.
GENERAL

DP/CP/ANT/3/EXTENSION I
9 July 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Third regular session 1997
15-19 September 1997, New York
Item 6 of the provisional agenda
UNDP

UNDP: COUNTRY COOPERATION FRAMEWORKS AND RELATED MATTERS

EXTENSION OF THE THIRD COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Note by the Administrator

1. The third country programme for Antigua and Barbuda (1992-1996) was approved by the Governing Council at its thirty-ninth session.

2. The Government has requested the extension of the programme for one year, in order to allow it to: (a) finalize its first country cooperation framework, taking into consideration its current efforts to define new national development goals and priorities; and (b) define the scope and extent of an economic development programme. The latter has become necessary due to the current economic difficulties in Antigua and Barbuda, which have made it hard for the Government to implement the structural reforms necessary to address underlying problems. UNDP will continue to support the Government in its efforts to formulate an economic development plan that will include a comprehensive economic and fiscal reform programme.

3. Only one project, on physical planning and environmental conservation, was undertaken during the fifth cycle. Implementation of the project was delayed, primarily because of the high turnover in project personnel and weak institutional arrangements. In 1996, discussions between UNDP and the Government resulted in the decision to cancel a management development programme and to allocate unutilized indicative planning figure resources to an expanded physical planning project, which will lead to the completion of an integrated land-use plan comprising economic, social and environmental elements. The project is providing valuable insights into the discussions of the upcoming first country cooperation framework. The integrated land-use plan is expected to be completed by December 1997.

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4. Against this background, the Administrator wishes to inform the Board that he has approved the extension of the third country programme for Antigua and Barbuda for a period of one year, beginning 1 January 1997.